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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/510,262

10/05/2004

Ronaldus Maria Aarts

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01/31/2008

PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS

P.O. BOX 3001

BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510

EXAMINER

BAYOU, YONAS A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2134

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

01/31/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/510,262

Applicant(s)

AARTS ET AL.

Examiner

Yonas Bayou

Art Unit

2134

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 October 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/05/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lambrecht, Patent Number 6,181,800 B1 in view of Thomas et al., Patent Number 7,065,498 B1.

Referring to claim 1, Lambrecht teaches the HRTF for each individual is unique. The HRTF is affected by the size and shape of the head, the size and shape of the pinnae, the characteristics of the ear canal, and the relationship of the shoulder to the ear. A unique HRTF can be calculated for each individual by performing detailed and time consuming measurements of the head, ear and body. The measurements taken for an individual are converted to a transfer function usable by a processing device to adjust the characteristics of audio signal outputs to individual speakers to simulate positional three-dimensional sound [column 1, lines 24-35]. Lambrecht does not appear to explicitly teach a method for a service provider to distribute an audio signal to

a listener. However Thomas teaches the client establishes communication with the server to identify the customer. To do this, the customer computer system initiates communication with the merchant computer system through communication link using any access protocol, for example transmission control protocol/internet protocol (TCP/IP) **[column 5, lines 15-20]**. Thomas and Lambrecht are analogous art because both teach HRTFs.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method of Lambrecht to include the client establishes communication with the server of Thomas because under control of the dialogue unit, the server then transmits to the client information on a range of video and/or audio products available for purchase, for example by reading header segments of a group of the product files, please see KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc., 550 U.S., 82 USPQ2d 1385 (2007) for further interpretation.

Referring to claim 2, Lambrecht teaches a method for a service provider to distribute an audio signal to a listener, wherein the personalization is performed before distributing said audio signal to said listener **[column 1, lines 52-53; column 2, lines 42-54 and fig. 1 individualized corresponding to personalization]**.

Referring to claim 3, Lambrecht teaches a method for a service provider to distribute an audio signal to a listener, wherein the listener parameters in the set of head related transfer functions have been chosen between a number of sets of listener

parameters being specific for said listener [**column 2, lines 23-34**; selecting the best fit HRTF corresponding to choosing the listener parameters].

Referring to claim 4, Lambrecht teaches a method for a service provider to distribute an audio signal to a listener, wherein the head related transfer functions have been modified in an substantially inaudible way, where said modification is performed by embedding information into the set of head related transfer functions before filtering the audio signal [**column 2, lines 28-38**; adjusting the HRTF is repeated/modified].

Referring to claims 5, 6, 8, 9 and 10, Lambrecht teaches a method for a service provider to distribute an audio signal to a listener, wherein the audio impression of the audio signal has been changed according to first listener parameters being specific for a specific listener, comprising the steps of:

detecting said first listener parameters used for changing the audio impression of said audio signal [**column 5, lines 55-58 and fig. 2**; the positional error corresponding to first listener parameters],

comparing said detected first listener parameters with second listener parameters [**column 5, lines 58-63 and fig. 2**] and

playing back said audio signal if said detected first listener parameters identify a listener being identical to the listener identified by said second listener parameters [**column 5, lines 61-63 and fig. 1**; an acceptable range of error stored in the computer 102 corresponding to second listener parameters].

Referring to claim 7, Lambrecht teaches a method for a service provider to distribute an audio signal to a listener, wherein first and second listener parameters are parameters to be used in a set of head related transfer functions, and wherein the audio signal has been changed by filtering it using the set of head related transfer functions having listener parameters being specific for a specific listener [column 1, lines 12-35; the frequency, delays and position of the sound are listener parameters].

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yonas Bayou whose telephone number is 571-272-7610. The examiner can normally be reached on m-f, 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kambiz Zand can be reached on 571-272-3811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Yonas Bayou

12/29/2007

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1/3/08